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# Near East/North Africa Report

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

'KUNA' ANALYZES FRENCH POLICY TOWARD ARABS

LD091640 Kuwait KUNA in English 1529 GMT 9 Dec 81

[KUNA headline by Robert Holloway entitled "A KUNA News Analysis"]

[Text] Paris, 9 Dec (KUNA)--Remarks by France's External Relations Minister, Claude Cheysson, in favour of Camp David seem to reflect confusion in French foreign policy, rather than the sudden shift towards Israel feared by some Arab states.

Israeli officials were said to be delighted with Cheysson's statement on Israeli Radio yesterday that "Camp David is progress" and that western European efforts to find an alternative to it were "absurd and wrong."

The feeling in Paris, however, is that Cheysson was trying to put Franco-Israeli relations on a good footing before President Francois Mitterrand's state visit, scheduled for 10 February. Many observers here expect the minister, one of the most outspoken members of the government, to use quite different language when talking to Arab states or other members of the European economic community.

Cheysson surprised European diplomats by attacking the EEC's June 1980 Venice declaration, which endorsed the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and called for the inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in peace talks.

His criticism seemed to indicate an abrupt shift in French policy, since only last month, France joined Britain, Italy and the Netherlands in reaffirming the Venice statement.

That reaffirmation came in a statement about the role of the international peace-keeping force which is due to take up position in Sinai next April when Israel concludes the withdrawal of its forces under the Camp David agreements.

The EEC statement was vehemently attacked by Israeli Premier Menahem Begin, who said his government would veto the participation in the force of any country which tried to go beyond Camp David.



Judging by remarks made privately by French officials, however, Cheysson's apparent volte face results from confusion, rather than Israeli pressure.

That confusion dates from the assassination on 6 October of Egypt's President al-Sadat.

Officials here told KUNA that the offer to send troops to Sinai followed a request from Sadat's successor, Husni Mubarak, which was addressed first of all to France.

The officials did not explain why Mubarak approached France rather than Britain, whose Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington is the current chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers.

Close analysis of Cheysson's remarks in Israel yesterday supports the thesis that Egypt is at the center of French pre-occupations.

"Who can think that there can be peace without Egypt?" the French minister asked. He later said: "To speak against Camp David means let's forget about Egypt."

Officials further suggest that France's support for the Saudi eight-point peace initiative, shelved after the collapse of the Arab summit in Fes last month, was motivated by the conviction that the initiative represented the best chance for a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Cheysson's remarks will of course fuel Arab fears that France's new socialist government is far more pro-Israel than its conservative predecessors. Mr Mitterrand, a long-time friend of Israel, will be the first French head of state to visit that country.

CSO: 4400/93

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BANK OFFICIAL: WEST 'FLEEING' OIL STATES

GF171028 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Dec 81 p 1

[By staff reporter]

[Text] The Governor of the UAE Central Bank Mr Abd al-Maliq al-Hamar, said in Abu Dhabi yesterday that the developed countries are fleecing the oil states by charging relatively higher prices for low quality goods.

This type of discrimination was not only reflected in higher prices for contracts, but included consumer goods as well as medicines, he stressed.

Mr al-Hamar was speaking at a meeting between the representatives of the UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UAEFCCI) and the visiting delegation of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

The UAEFCCI side was led by Mr Sayf Sultan, the deputy UAEFCCI president.

The ICC was represented by Mr Mohamed Ali Rangoonwala and Mr Pierre Jonnert, president and director-general respectively.

"I have learned from some merchants that one has to go to the Far East to import cheaply a wide range of commodities. The merchants said that the developed countries give lower quotations for their products to the Far Eastern business houses.

"The same products are exported to the Middle East and the oil countries at higher prices. If an oil country businessman directly orders the same product from the developed countries, he ends up in paying more," Mr al-Hamar emphasised.

Mr al-Hamar said that this evidently unfair practice was not confined to prices. He said even the quality of products being sent to the oil countries were inferior to that exported to Europe and the USA.

"I was in Japan last year and I have noticed that the specification of the cars exported to the oil countries were qualitatively lower compared to those of the same cars being sent to Europe and the USA, although there was no difference in prices," he reiterated.

He noted that this drawback was true not only of Japanese cars but also of other machinery and equipment originating from other parts of the world.



Discussing the causes of world inflation, the UAECB governor said: "The question of the profitability of large international commercial banks and the amount of deposits they collected in the last two decades should be examined. How many billions were made and what happened to them?" he asked.

Commenting on the activities of the International Chamber of Commerce, he said that issues related to maritime piracy and fraud were of special concern to the UAE and other countries in the Gulf.

He welcomed the establishment by the ICC of the new London-based International Maritime Bureau (IMTB) and the Paris-based ICC Arbitration Tribunal.

Mr Mohamed Ali Rangoonwala, the President of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), said that he appreciated the deep concern of the UAE businessmen on matters regarding piracy and fraud.

He said that this problem was not confined to the Middle East alone, but bedevilled the world as a whole.

WAM adds: At the meeting views on a number of commercial and economic matters were exchanged, including commercial and marine fraud and the distinction in prices of commodities imported by the petroleum exporting countries compared to some Far Eastern countries.

He also welcomed the invitation extended by the UAEFCCI for holding an international symposium in UAE to discuss steps to check commercial and marine fraud.

He said that the businessmen and merchants should consult the London-based International Marine Consultation Organisation (IMCO) before any commitment with the marine transport companies in the world.

He added that UAEFCCI would present a memo to the ICC on high prices of commodities exported from the industrialised countries to the petroleum exporting countries, so that the ICC could study these documents.

CSO: 4400/93

AREAS OF SOVIET, REBEL CONTROL DESCRIBED

Paris TRIBUNE SOCIALISTE in French No 27 Nov 81 pp 16-19

[Interview with Pierre Metge by Jeanne Brunschwig, date and place not specified:  
"'Afterwards' Has Already Begun"]

[Text] Pierre Metge and Herve Barre went to Afghanistan last summer to deliver the money collected by the Movement for Support for Afghan Resistance in France (MSRA) to the internal resistance. Their mission took them in particular to Hazarajat (the Iranian frontier) and to Nimruz (the Irano-Pakistani frontier) where they were able to make a number of contacts with the fighting men and the leaders of different "fronts." Pierre Metge was happy to give a witness's account to TRIBUNE SOCIALISTE.

[Question] You had money to deliver to the resistance. How did you determine to whom to entrust it? Had that issue been settled before you left?

[Answer] Our trip had a two-fold purpose: to hand over the money collected by the MSRA to groups of resistance fighters, and to do some "investigation" as to what is the most democratic and most tolerant portion of the resistance. This required several trips into the country's interior and along the border in order to make a maximum number of contacts with these groups. When we left France questions were already occurring to us about whom the assistance we were bringing was meant for, firstly because in France we only had fragmentary information available, and then also because the organizations are not unified. So the MSRA gave us the mission of delivering these funds to groups fighting effectively within the country and which has either themselves taken democratic stands or tolerated among their ranks fighting men drawing inspiration from a democratic stance. We emphasized this toleration, and that is where the line is drawn between intolerant fundamentalist Moslems and movements which are also Moslem but are tolerant. Fundamentalists make it a rule to condemn and fight those who disagree with them.

[Question] Is the boundary between those who make an inseparable whole out of allegiance to Islam, and those who have other benchmarks as well a boundary of a purely ideological nature or is it social or ethnic?

[Answer] There do not appear to be very clearcut social or ethnic bases. Support for a fundamentalist group can be determined by reasons of an historical or geographical nature. That is the case for Shiite Hazaras whose situation is connected to the radicalization of the Iranian revolution and to the assistance they receive from it. The Council of Islamic Unity which administers those regions used to be more open and was promising elections before control was taken over by fundamentalist mullahs. This does not mean in any way that the whole population gladly follows them. Besides, we were able to observe a certain amount of dispute over the role played by that council. It does happen that Afghan resistance fighters have been denounced by big landowners who felt threatened to Iranian "Revolutionary Guards" and have narrowly escaped the firing squad.

Also owing to the international situation of Iran which is still supported by the Soviet Union, and owing to the fact that the pro-Soviet Tudeh Party supports the coalition in power in Iran, there exist collusive agreements between the Iranian Government and the Kabul Government.

#### A Certain Stabilization

[Question] You have been in close contact with the fighting men. Can you give us a picture of the war the way you saw it? How is the resistance organized?

[Answer] The general impression is one of a certain stabilization. The Soviets are not really trying to get the upper hand, and, looking at things as a whole, the resistance fighters are strengthening their positions somewhat. The information available to us relates to the central and western areas of the country. But the fiercest fights are taking place around Kabul (we have direct information there), in the eastern area, and in the southeastern area of Afghanistan. Two valleys in these regions have strategic importance. Those are the Kunar Valley and the Panchir Valley. It is possible to control the passage of men and arms coming from Pakistan, from the Peshawar region, via these valleys. Moreover, closing them off would certainly complicate the job of the resistance, though it would not be in any way decisive. The determination to empty the Kunar Valley of its inhabitants is being shown by repeated incursions and bombings of villages. But the efforts of the Soviets are being brought to bear to a greater extent on the Panchir Valley because not only is it a route towards Pakistan as well but also it runs into the road which links Kabul to the USSR, and the valley's control by the resistance fighters is one of the causes of the insecurity affecting that route.

That is why the Soviets had the plan of setting themselves up and then establishing a garrison at the entrance to the valley, at Kolbahar. Furthermore, they did engage in battle there and announced the fall of Kolbahar and then its recovery by the resistance fighters. This is a case which is a little special: as a general rule offensives do not have the aim of taking territory from the Mujahedin; there are just clashes which cause losses on one side and the other. Acts directed at the civilian population, whether during direct confrontations or as reprisals, are something which occurs fairly frequently. There were some very harsh actions in the Bashman region last July and August. Incursions have taken place in other regions as well but with very dubious results for the Soviets, to the point that one wonders if sometimes they are not making sorties in order to raise the morale of their soldiers who are cooped up in their garrisons. In any event they do not show

evidence of a very high level of fighting spirit. It is not uncommon at the start of an encounter, when the first tank jumps over a mine, to see them make an about face. But it is also well known that there are very fierce clashes, most often on the occasion of ambushes set by the Mujahedin on main routes used frequently by the Soviets, conflicts which entail very heavy losses for the Soviets, particularly in equipment.

[Question] Can the invaders or Kabul Government troops move without having any difficulties on the two main roads, the one from Pakistan to Kabul and the Soviet Union, and the one from Kabul to Kandahar, Herat and the USSR?

[Answer] In fact those are the only routes which deserve to be called roads. In one sense the Soviets and Kabul's troops control them, but they often find ambushes on them. On their side, the Mujahedin avoid using them but they cross them quite frequently. During the night, portions of these roads are used. That was the case for Herve Barre, the man with whom I went there, and for a number of other travellers. This is on stretches which are of course far away from garrisons.

#### Ten Percent of the Territory in the Hands of the Soviets

[Question] It seemed very surprising to us to learn when you returned that you had move' around by car, particularly Herve who went as far as Hazarajat.

[Answer] In this regard, it depends on the regions. Our plan itself implied that we were going to be delivering money in liberated regions. But there are areas in which movements of that kind would be practically impossible.

[Question] What is the relative size of the liberated regions?

[Answer] Overall one can say that the Soviets only control ten percent of the territory. In fact, things are more complicated than that. There are no areas where it is impossible for the Soviets to penetrate. They just have to be prepared to pay the price and to have heavy assets available. Areas where this is the case represent, let us say, 50 percent of the country's area. A second category includes some hotly disputed areas which occasion sizable and regular confrontations; these areas represent perhaps a quarter of the total area. These areas are the ones we were just mentioning. Finally, there are areas in which resistance fighters are sparse, about 10 percent of the country, where the authority of the Kabul Government is still being exercised (relatively speaking).

In August a conference of province governors appointed by Kabul was held. Out of 38 provinces in Afghanistan, 21 governors said they did not have the means with which to exercise their authority.

#### The Liberated Areas

We got to know three examples of these liberated regions a little better.

In the province of Ghor (in the central part of the country) no authority is being exercised. There is barely some sort of prefect in the capital who commands a garrison which is totally surrounded. Ghor is located in Hazarajat and one finds



two groups of fighting men there linked to the Hazara government which we were speaking about just a little while ago. Three other Pashtun ethnic groups, or fronts (a word which usually refers to groups of several hundred fighting men), are connected with one of the so-called Peshawar parties. In the Hazara part of Hazarajat the government is the Hazarajat government. In the Pashtun part there is, strictly speaking, no government; there is an authority vacuum. That is certainly not a unique case.

The Hazarajat case is very interesting, for this is not an administrative region. It is a set of regions inhabited by Hazaras who traditionally have been oppressed and are considered the lowest of the low. This area, situated amid the Hindu Kush and very well protected by mountainous topography, has for 2 years been de facto liberated. Let us recall that the Hazaras also have the distinctive characteristic of representing the Shiite minority in the country. From the very beginning they made up an initial government segment, the Council of Islamic Unity already referred to, which is now taken over by fundamentalists. The council has given the region a structure, has divided it into six wilayas, and has provided it with an administration with officials for justice, for the economy, and for cultural and propaganda issues which also get mixed up. The same division is found at the wilaya level in each one. Taxes are collected, there is a civilian state; government papers are issued, etc., and external aid is distributed.

A third case is that of Nimruz, liberated by the "national liberation guerrilla fighters" who have since that time been formed into the "Nimruz Front." They control the entire province with the exception of two small fully beleaguered garrisons. They have divided the province into four departments run by the front's Central Committee in each department. The front has called for each village to elect a "Council of Representatives," leaving the responsibility of choosing the method for appointing its three representatives up to each village. In addition, they are in the process of setting up a self-defense force in each village which would act in coordination with the front's army. This army includes a thousand fighting men, adequately armed in spite of the difficulties with regard to ammunition which is more difficult to replenish than weapons, and capable of intervening fairly speedily any place in the province. The council has a program for agricultural development and health care development. It also has an education program, which is not the case everywhere.

So, in the liberated areas people lead a nearly normal life. They are bothered by the authorities less than previously. In Nimruz the landowners have fled and tax income is used to make the system function just as are customs duties on exports to Iran.

Theocracy, Monarchy, or Republic?

[Question] Are these concerns coupled with others regarding what Afghanistan will be after the expected departure of the invaders? Are people thinking about "afterwards"?

[Answer] Certainly, and quite clearly. That is in fact what explains how extensive and long-lasting the rifts among resistance fighters are. Some of them intend to make way for a theocratic republic of the Pakistani type. Others would like to see

the king returning to the throne. Finally, others, with all kinds of slight differences among them as well, want to found a relatively democratic republic. The contradictions between these plans are more or less profound, and alliances are formed or not formed according to what those contradictions are. The antagonism between what I was calling the tolerant ones and the intolerant ones sometimes deteriorates into armed conflict involving human death. And it must definitely be said here that the aggressor is always on the side of the intolerant.

Persistent rumors are going around according to which the Peshawar groups or parties are keeping and hiding weapons specifically in anticipation of "afterwards." That is evident in the areas already liberated where "afterwards" has already begun. And that is one of the constant preoccupations of the fighting men. The only exceptions are those for whom "afterwards" should be identical to "what was before." This allows them to very appealingly hold forth in unitary fashion, but it obviously must be outgrown. Having said this, it is very difficult to assess the relative size of the various factions, especially since in order to obtain weapons in Peshwar one must show one is fundamentalist and have a corresponding card in one's pocket. The best established among the fundamentalist parties, Esbi Islami, is undoubtedly not very sizable but it is very well organized. The other parties find the main part of their favorable reception in Pashtun areas. But in actual fact, one often observes that a particular party is especially well established in the province its leader is from. As soon as there are disagreements or splits, one observes that the separation occurs geographically. But in the north and in the west, the Peshawar parties gain little in the way of favorable reception. That is where parties without representation in Peshawar are established, and those parties can be considered if not leftist at least more liberal and oriented towards social changes. They seem to be making headway even though they are in the minority and operate either on their own or within "tolerant" groups. They play a role which is probably greater than their fighting force would imply because they are well organized, have coherent plans, and also have a unitary strategy.

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CSO: 4619/23



'MANY' CIVILIANS KILLED IN SOVIET-AFGHAN OPERATION

BK181039 Hong Kong AFP in English 1014 GMT 18 Nov 81

[Text] Islamabad, 18 Nov (AFP)--Many civilians have perished in an operation by Red army and Afghan government forces during the past week to consolidate defence of the highway running north from Kabul to the Soviet frontier, diplomatic sources said here.

The operation involved the systematic clearance by bulldozers and tanks of all vegetation and buildings to a distance of up to 200 metres on either side of the highway in order to deny cover to Islamic insurgent forces, the sources said.

In the three Parvan Province towns of (Sharikar), (Kaziz-I-Mir), and (Shakar Dara), less than 100 kms (60 miles) north of the capital, where the highway clearance began on November 11, the operation was reportedly covered by shelling with tanks and helicopters--while ground troops fired indiscriminately on civilians, killing many, the source indicated.

The operation ran into heavy resistance around (Sharikar) from three rival rebel groups, the Hezh-e Islami, Jamiat Islami, and Harakate Inqlabi, who joined forces and succeeded in making government troops yield up the area each night and withdraw to the (Narakhana) garrison outside Kabul.

The sources said that the highway clearance may also have been a punitive operation following reports that insurgents had destroyed several military convoys.

The sources said an Afghan who arrived in Pakistan recently from the area reported having seen the burnt out hulks of 13 Soviet tanks and army trucks--apparently part of the same convoy--and dozens of other crippled vehicles as far north as Nazar-e Sharif, 50 kms (30 miles) from the Soviet frontier.

The sources said that some 10 members of the Afghan Communist Party had died in guerrilla attacks during the past week in Kabul, where there were almost nightly shootings and bombings in residential districts.

According to reports from diplomats in the capital itself, there had been shelling around Paghman, 20 kilometres (12 miles) to the north.

A medical team from an international organization just back from Nangarhar Province, adjoining the frontier with Pakistan, reported helicopter attacks, and shelling of villages and the insurgent camp of (Tora Bora).

The team said the local people had few contacts with the insurgents, while because of the bombardments they hesitated to visit the camp for medical treatment. However in one month the team had treated dozens of casualties.

Somewhere in the same province, the 68-year-old Soviet geologist Yevgeniy Nikhaylovich Okremyuk is still being held hostage by the insurgents.

He was kidnapped in Kabul last New Years' day and the insurgents, negotiating with Soviet authorities via the International Red Cross, have in vain sought to exchange him for 50 of their side in government hands.

Now the insurgents have released a tape-recorded message in which the hostage pleads with his government to accept the exchange---failing which, "my life will be forfeit."

CSO: 4600/153

## AFGHANISTAN

### AIRLINES TOLD NOT TO ALLOW AFGHANS TO FLY TO FRG

BK240651 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT 24 Nov 81

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Nov (AFP)--All international airlines taking off from India and the adjoining countries and flying to or via West Germany have been instructed not to accept Afghans aboard regardless of their destinations, a published report said today.

The only concession made is that all Afghan passengers who fly via West Germany for further destinations must possess a transit visa for West Germany itself, but the request for a transit visa by Afghan nationals is invariably turned down and the new stipulation virtually amounts to disallowing Afghans to fly via West Germany, the "HINDUSTAN TIMES" daily reported.

The step has been taken, the paper said, in view of the large number of Afghans who, the West Germany Government fears, might seek asylum as refugees.

The German national carrier, Lufthansa, and other international airlines offices here confirmed that such a rule had come into force and they were abiding by them.

The new rules on the Afghan nationals come close on the heels of the introduction of the visa system for Indian and Pakistani nationals.

Till last year, Indians and Pakistanis did not need a visa to go to West Germany, but probably overwhelmed by the influx of Indians and Pakistanis claiming refugees status, a visa system was introduced and transit visa issued at the West German airports were stopped.

Soon after the Communist coup in Afghanistan in 1978, many affluent Afghans left for West Germany and sought political asylum there. Their numbers went up considerably after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979. Majority of the Afghans came to India from Kabul and boarded planes for West Germany from here.

CSO: 4600/153

## AFGHANISTAN

### ASIAN LEGAL PANEL SAYS SOVIETS USE POISON GAS IN AFGHANISTAN

BK031501 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Dec (AFP)--A legal enquiry committee of Asian lawyers on Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan today announced it has evidence to prove that Soviet soldiers were using poison gas in Afghanistan.

The committee, which concluded its 3-day enquiry here today examined 16 principal Afghan witnesses.

Lawyers from Thailand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh took part in the enquiry. The committee was set up in May 1981 by the Association of Indian Lawyers to hold an enquiry on the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

P.N. Lekhi, chairman of the committee, told a press conference that he would submit the legal aspect of the findings on December 27, the second anniversary of the Soviet armed intervention. He said evidences concerning the use of poison gas and other "Soviet excesses" in Afghanistan would be made public after the committee gets back the questionnaires it had sent to Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The committee had to send questionnaires to Pakistan as Islamabad refused to grant visas to the committee members, he said.

H.K. Abdul Hye, vice president of the National Association of Lawyers of Bangladesh, Aruwyn C. Gooneratne, attorney-at-law from Sri Lanka and Anex Sisainit, executive member of the Thailand Bar Association represented their respective countries.

CSO: 4600/153

## AFGHANISTAN

### TAJIK DOMESTIC FLIGHT SERVICE ON AFGHAN BORDER IMPROVES

Dushanbe TOJIKISTONI SOVIETI in Tajiki 11 Nov 81 p 4

[Text] Not long ago, a neighbor who is an old acquaintance of mine said that he had to go to Dushanbe on essential business. He and I bought a ticket and flew. In the evening, when the last airplane landed at Khorog airport, my acquaintance was the first to deplane. He was cheerful; happiness showed on his face. In one day he made a long journey, accomplished his government assignment, also had the good fortune to see his children, who live in the city, and returned home again.

Seeing this, I automatically reflected that at one time a journey of such length would have taken my acquaintance months. The Pamirs are considered one of the most inaccessible places for a journey of such length. It was not easy to travel here on narrow roads.

Only the Soviet Government could have succeeded in overcoming this difficulty. Fifty years ago, an air route was opened above the snow covered mountain peaks and bottomless ravines. Since then an end has been put to the constant lack of roads in the Pamirs. The development of the Pamirs' economy and culture is now difficult without air transportation. Aviation plays a big part, comparable to automobile transportation, in providing the inhabitants of Bam-i Jahan with necessities. Our airport is always filled with people. From here, students, geologists, borderguards, and members of scientific expeditions fly to all parts of the region and the country.

The Pamir air route has its own history. In the first years, "Polukarpov-5" airplanes flew the impenetrable route. At that time, the flight took five hours. Pilots seated in an open cockpit flew the plane. Thanks to a commemorative publication by the Badakhshanis, the Soviet flight instructors have not been forgotten. For example, one of the pilots landed his disabled airplane on the bank of the Panj River and protected it against a Basmachi attack during the long hours until others arrived. Now comfortable and swift airplanes--YaK-40, AN-24, IL-14--fly the Pamirs. Pilots fly planes carrying essential goods to the center of the province, the city of Khorog, and also to the raions of Vanj, Kalai-Khumb, Rushan, and Ishkashim. After many years, a new page has again been turned in the history of Pamir aviation. In the Murgab raion, the highest place in the Soviet Union, a new airport is ready to receive airplanes. Now even the fast YaK-40 airplanes fly there. Helicopters carry geologists to the high Pamirs, barometers to Fedchenko glacier, and scientific expeditions to

mysterious Lake Sarez. In emergencies, quick medical aid is delivered to people. In a word, aviation has now become a constant help.

None the less, this Pamir air route is still considered one of the nearly inaccessible routes. Airplanes fly to an altitude of five thousand meters, rising near the sky scraping peaks. Looking out the plane windows all you see is mountain ranges, which extend for a distance of hundreds of kilometers. However pilots fly the planes without danger. Thus, in their opinion, contemporary means of communication and administration have been established. Near Khorog airport a barometric station operates and does its job well. The appearance of Khorog airport itself has been transformed beyond recognition. Some years ago it looked like an insignificant little field. A pilot had to use extreme caution in landing a plane there. When a plane landed, dust covered the surrounding area. Now one can observe a different view. The airfield has been covered completely with asphalt. In winter, powerful machinery, all snow-removal bulldozers, work here.

The collective of Khorog airport always occupies a prominent place by its distinguished, industrious daring, overfulfilling its plan quota. The frequency and passenger load increases annually. Now the collective works in the second half of December. B. Shiikova, D. Mardonaev, A. Muvolasenov, and many others who work here have earned people's esteem by their good service and attitude.

The workers of Khorog airport greet the sixty-fourth anniversary of Great October with valuable labor gifts and promise that the first year of the eleventh five year plan will be made one of outstanding labor achievement.

Haqnazar ALINAZAROV  
head of Khorog airport .

9929

CSO: 1835/1



'AL-AKHBAR' ON SINAI WITHDRAWAL PREPARATIONS

PM221707 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Dec 81 pp 1, 11

[Report by 'Ali Shalabi and Muhammad 'Abd al-Raziq: "Egypt To Participate in Administration of Sinai Airports"]

[Excerpt] It has been decided that, effective 25 February 1982, Egypt will participate in the administration of Sinai airports prior to their final handing over on 25 April. It has also been decided to set up a special airline company to link Sinai with all Egyptian airports and also with world airports. Israel will begin to remove its equipment and hangars from the Egyptian airports in Sinai and take them to Israel. Egypt will buy some of the equipment as well as 50 villas to house airport workers.

The civil aviation mission has returned to Cairo after inspecting the South Sinai airports in Sharm al-Shaykh and Ra's al-Naqb. Another mission will visit the north Sinai airports early next month. A delegation from the civil aviation authority will also visit Israel on Sunday to hold bilateral talks and lay the main foundations for an air transport and civil aviation agreement between the two countries.

This was stated by civil aviation authority chairman Yahya al-Shinnawi. He said: The authority's delegation explored Sharm al-Shaykh and Ra's al-Naqb airports and a decision has been made to buy some of the equipment at the two airports. A list is being prepared of the equipment and installations that the authority intends to buy for the Sharm al-Shaykh and Ra's al-Naqb airports, such as radio equipment, fire engines, ambulances, automatic transporters, and standby generators.

A group of civil aviation authority workers will leave for the two airports to work there with the Israelis as of 25 February. They will remain there until 5 April when more workers will go there to work until 25 April, the date for the final handing over of the two airports.

AL-AKHBAR has learned that most of the equipment necessary for the operation of the two airports will be Egyptian, and they will be installed before the handing over. The Israelis insist on taking the important equipment and hangars and on

dismantling the prefabricated buildings in order to use them in the airports to be built with U.S. help in Negev. Only 50 villas will be left for the Egyptian workers at the Ra's al-Naqb airport at cost of \$30,000 per villa.

It has also been decided to set up an airline company to link Sinai airports with Egyptian and world airports. It has been agreed to increase the number of weekly flights between Tel Aviv and Cairo to 10, 5 of which will be El Al flights and the other five Egyptian Nefertiti Airline flights.

CSO: 4504/138

## ASSEMBLY DEBATES REPLY TO POLICY STATEMENTS

NC201805 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] At its session under the chairmanship of people's assembly speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib this morning, the people's assembly began its debate on the report by the committee charged with drafting a reply to the president's and government's statements. For more details, here is a report by al-'Azabi al-Tayyib al-Tahir:

[Begin recording] Three deputies spoke at the beginning. They were followed by deputy Muntaz Nassar, who referred to certain issues related to democracy, the detainees and the reform of the economic policy. Naturally, these issues required an urgent answer. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Nabawi Isma'il took the platform. He asserted the government's keenness to safeguard democracy and the supremacy of the law. He explained that the number of those held in custody has fallen, but that, in accordance with the emergency law, approximately 2,500 persons of extremist leanings were detained to protect the country from a danger that was about to threaten its security following the assassination of departed leader Anwar al-Sadat.

Commenting on statements by the same deputy, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that the current fiscal year's budget has achieved a surplus of 438 million pounds and that the recent rise in the price of the dollar was the result of the events through which Egypt passed. He said that these events led to the withdrawal of \$400 million in foreign deposits but that approximately \$120 million were returned following President Mubarak's first statement. The return of the foreign deposits continued to flow back to reach their value before the events.

The deputies continued their comments and their demand centered on the following: the intensification of the penalties on those who tamper with the people's livelihood, revival of the illegal gain law, restraining the trend toward the loans policy and pursuing a balanced economic policy based on austerity and maintaining the subsidies and ensuring that they reach those who deserve them.

I can say that most of the members' views coincided with the general trend in the statements by the president of the republic and the government both on the internal and external levels. [end recording].

CSO: 4504/138

EGYPT

BRIEFS

RELEASE OF PARLIAMENTARIAN--Cairo, 28 Dec (AFP)--Egypt is to ask Saudi Arabia to release an Egyptian member of parliament who was detained on drug charges 3 months ago while on a pilgrimage to Mecca. The MP, Ahmad al-Faqi, was arrested at Jedda Airport on arrival in Saudi Arabia, the pro-government weekly AL-AHRAR reported today. The paper said the authorities would send the deputy speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, Sayyid Zaki, to secure his release. [Text] [NC281325 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 28 Dec 81]

CSO: 4500/78

POLITICAL INFIGHTING REPORTED CONTINUING

GF211420 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Serious competition, political division and the presence of various factions among the ruling group have developed further and are now affecting the regime's organizations. The effects are obvious in the national organizations.

The Rafsanjani-Khamene'i gang in a very clever scheme succeeded in (?electing) to the post of president) mullah Khamene'i, who is the leader of the Feda'iyān-e Islam faction of the murderers and has influence in the revolution guards. This move (?forced) Mahdavi-Kani (?out of the scene) even though he is the influential head of the so-called revolution committees. He came to power as a result of Beheshti's death and then forced Beheshti's allies out of the cabinet in the last few days before the presidential election. Khamene'i claimed that the reason for Mahdavi-Kani's withdrawal from the election was to strengthen his government in the new republic. Following this they had no trouble in forcing Mahdavi-Kani toward resignation or complete surrender. Mahdavi-Kani, of course, had no choice but to resign.

Disagreements and discord among the guards and a gradual shift by some of them toward Mahdavi-Kani and a number of ayatollahs which resulted in Khomeyni's intervention and his warning about disunity in the revolution guards frightened the Rafsanjani-Khamene'i faction a great deal. They hurriedly offered Velayati to the Majlis as prime minister since he is an obedient agent. However, the subject only deepened the rift between supporters and opposition in the Majlis and the Rafsanjani-Khamene'i faction was forced to retreat after a 70-80 vote.

This political battle seemingly ended with Khomeyni's intervention and selection of the president's brother and to the advantage of the Khamene'i-Rafsanjani faction. However, factionism and the struggle for power continue both secretly and in the open. The Council of Guardians refused to approve a number of bills already accepted by the Majlis. The "imam liners" and "hezbollahis," the murderers and criminals with records who form Khomeyni's forces, are swallowing the national budget on the orders of the leaders of the regime and contrary to the imam's pretences. They plunder our people and then murder them. Helpless slum dwellers have neither a place to live in safety nor a life

worthy of a human being. Khomeyni's revolution was supposed to be revolt by the slum dwellers against the palace residents, but the palaces are in the usurping hands of the mullahs and the slum dwellers continue to mingle in the villages and slums like insects.

The (?destruction) of human values is the most common "tough" policy of the Khomeyni regime. The society is moving toward moral and spiritual decay, murder and revenge with unbelievable speed. This is a calamity far more dangerous and far harder to solve than any material destruction or loss. Agriculture has become chaotic due to strangulation of land ownership. The land reform has stagnated in the Majlis due to the usurping mullahs and their disagreements. Production in factories has gone down by 90 percent and most are either partially or completely closed. Security units have carved out spheres of influence--as during the patriarchal eras--and have become the area's masters. Two groups of the Palestinian-trained Moscow supporters--the Tudah Party--have a strong disagreement with another faction of (?nationalists) [presumably the Mojahedin-e Khalq] and are locked in combat.

In such chaotic circumstances, will the Khomeyni regime continue? Certainly not. The future will soon prove this.

CSO: 4640/87



BAHA'IS' CLAIMS OF OPPRESSION CRITICIZED

NC172202 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Summary from poor reception] LE MONDE, which for more than 3 years has been supporting Bani-Sadr, carries a report in today's issue on the "calamities being faced by the Baha'is in Iran." This newspaper has reported that several Baha'i representatives and leaders have been arrested, adding that some time ago several leaders of the sect "disappeared mysteriously."

The paper, which until the time Bani-Sadr was president described Khomeyni's regime as "revolutionary, completely Muslim and popular" quotes the Baha'i association of France as saying that officials of the Islamic Republic have occupied the Baha'is' (?cemetery) in Tehran, confiscated documents, imprisoned (?employees) and taken over the Baha'i pilgrimage site in northern Iran. The paper also writes that similar actions have been taken against the Baha'i's residence in Shiraz.

The Free Voice of Iran, while declaring that it firmly believes that religion and government should be separate and that the life and belongings and the respect of none of the citizens of Iran, irrespective of their religion, should be (?encroached) upon states that it cannot hide "its regrets on all that has been published in LE MONDE today." This newspaper has never reported on the execution of "our Muslim compatriots" or has merely sufficed to quote news agencies, while "every time the least harm is done to a Baha'i in Iran or when some Baha'is have been imprisoned LE MONDE has reported on the incident in detail and has even stated the names of those involved."

The Free Voice of Iran states that the Baha'is are not the only ones "suffering from the mullahs' oppression." The Free Voice of Iran does not accept the fact that the followers of the Baha'i sect, who during the past regime in Iran held the highest and most important ruling positions, now consider themselves the only oppressed people in Iranian society and the world's important newspapers and magazines, especially in America, France, Britain, Israel and Spain, being used by them to reflect only "the calamities" they have faced.

"The Free Voice of Iran explicitly announces that the oppression being inflicted on the Iranian people, be they Muslims, Zoroasters, Christians or Jews, cannot be forgotten and that the Baha'i sect should not consider itself the only (?sect) facing the mullah's oppression." LE MONDE, too, can "report on the continuous executions of patriotic Iranian youths."

CSO: 4640/87

CLANDESTINE RADIO ON OFFER TO ASSIST LIBYA

NC171515 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Excerpts] The regime's state radio yesterday announced that the Petroleum Ministry, in connection with the withdrawal of Western experts from Libya, is prepared to enter into any type of technical cooperation in oil matters with the Libyan Government and, if necessary, send experts and technical equipment to assist the Libyan brothers in confronting plots by the world-devouring United States.

A regime that has, since its inception, not spared any efforts in throwing out intellectuals and experts from the scene and has used all possible means to achieve this end; a regime that, because of damages inflicted to the country's large oil installations during the war with Iraq coupled with a large number of oil industry experts being made to flee, this regime which not only is incapable of managing this mother industry at present, but which will be compelled, for years and years to come, to rely on benefits of world-devouring imperialism--with which it claims to be in a struggle--very impudently proposed to send equipment and oil experts to Libya. It repeats the claims of fighting plots by the world-devouring United States. This regime--which claims not to have forgotten its political, military and economic resistance against the great satan for even a moment and has used all its mass media to serve the propagation of this claim--is the same regime that, according to the HERALD TRIBUNE, has requested to purchase spares for F-14 Phantoms from the United States and which, according to a spokesman of the U.S. Navy, has received a negative reply from the U.S. administration. Not much time has elapsed since (details on the) arms deal with Israel that this can be forgotten. Then these impudents speak both of struggles against U.S. imperialism and Israel and also take the initiative for sending installations and oil experts to Libya.

If these people are capable of doing something and are able to start the oil industries' operation, if there still is someone (to follow their orders), then they should do something so this year's black and cold winter is easier for the people so they at least have oil and gas to warm their (?homes). But if they cannot do so, then they should at least keep quiet so they are not (?further ridiculed by the world) and they should stop tormenting the Iranian nation.

CSO: 4640/87

ISRAEL SAID TO BE PREPARING WAY FOR THIRD CAMP DAVID

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Dec 81 p 1

[From "Message For Today" column by Musavian: "Warning...The Third Camp David Is On The Way"]

[Text]

AT long last King Hassan of Morocco has taken it upon himself to announce publicly what to us appears to be the main objective of the traitor participants of the Fez Conference and what further strikes us as being the principal cause of its failure. He declared that "the recognition of Israel is an essential issue and must not be omitted from the Fahd plan." In our view, the announcement of such an issue right after the defeat of the Fez Conference, only serves to direct all future plans and plots of the miser Arab heads to secure this announced objective.

And it is for this reason again that new activities are in motion and new moves being initiated in the region.

The Israeli Foreign Minister, Issac Shamir hurries to Washington in order to reach mutual agreement with the U.S. in regards to the future plan. As the Chairman of the Fez Conference, the criminal . . . , Shah Hassan is assigned to travel to America while he announced himself that he is going to the U.S. in order to explain the benefits of the Fahd plan to Reagan! As if the 'benefits' of the plan had been unknown to Reagan and the U.S. backing had been an act of sheer naivete!

Such pretence is indeed laughable. It is transparently clear that the head of the recent failed conference is being schooled in yet another plan, which no doubt will take time to mature given time for the masters of the many Arabic states and the defeated gendarme of the region to recover from the lethal blow that they have been dealt.

But this alone may not be enough and the U.S. planners of the criminal policies of Washington will make certain by touring the region in order to coordinate fully with their mercenaries

personally. that is why, according to the Agence France Press, from Rabat, the U.S. Defence Minister Weinberger will soon meet and discuss with Shah Hassan in Fez while the American Secretary of State, Gen. Haig will travel to the Middle East after the next summit of the NATO ministers in Brussels.

Begin, this embodiment of corruption in the region who pretended to be so furious with the Fahd plan and even pretended that Israel would start fighting Saudi Arabia because of the plan and staged fake air encounters over Arabia to give this credence, is now seeking a solution after the defeat of the plan and has even announced that he is willing to meet and talk with the Saudi heads either in Israel, Saudi Arabia or in a third country.

The reason for such a meeting would not be anything other than to condole with his disappointed servant Fahd and to dictate to Saudi leaders the scheme for a 3rd Camp David, as well as to encourage them to participate in such a plan.

In addition to these abortive activities carried out after the defeat of the Fez Conference, the U.S. has once again dispatched its agent for Middle East affairs, Philip Habib to the region so that he can study the issue of the settlement of the Syrian Sam missiles in Lebanon. For a while there had been no mention of this matter (Syrian missiles) after the Fahd plan was brought up. But why again has the issue been revived by Israel after the failure of the Fez summit?

It is possible that the U.S. and Israel are aiming at speeding up their air raids on Palestinians and the Shi'ites of South Lebanon through which they also intend firstly to avenge the failure of the Fahd plot and secondly to frighten the Moslem nations in order to prepare the grounds for the approval of a 3rd Camp David.

In the third stage they may be trying to prove the accuracy of the view of the mercenary Arab heads denoting that Israel is a power whose recognition is a vital issue. Fourthly they also aim at weakening the heads of the Steadfastness Front in their resistance.

The furthering of suspicious actions and moves for stabilization of Israel and the destruction of Palestinians is not beyond explanation. But what really matters is the vigilance and alertness of the Moslem nations who should prepare themselves to confront a still greater plot which is underway and still to come.

PLANS ANNOUNCED TO ELECTRIFY RURAL AREAS

Tehran KAYHAN AIRMAIL EDITION in Persian 25 Nov 81 p 9

[Interview with Dr Ghafuri, minister of energy]

[Text] Sari. By making proper use of the wood of the northern forests to supply electricity, every year an average of \$30 million of foreign exchange will be saved.

In an interview with reporters at the end of his visit to the Martyr Salimi "Neka" Gas Power Plant, Dr Ghafuri, minister of energy, commented on this subject: "Some programs have been arranged with the Ministry of Agriculture to make proper use of trees of the northern forests in order to supply regularly wooden electricity poles needed by the country, the quality of whose wood is better than that of foreign poles; likewise, plans are being studied to grow trees."

In connection with the policy of the Ministry of Energy regarding deprived rural areas in the country, Dr Ghafuri said: "Precise programs have been formulated so that in the near future 80 percent of the villages which have agricultural capacity and capability will be provided with electricity for agricultural uses such as wells, etc."

In connection with preventing waste of surface water in the country, especially in the province of Mazandaran, the minister of energy said: "The Ministry of Energy is now busy building about 70 to 80 dams and also about 50 to 60 dams are under study and survey. Also, measures are now being carried out to build a large number of tunnels to harness [surface] waters before they flow off into the sea."

CSO: 4640/78

FUTURE OF PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT IN DOUBT

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Dec 81 p 4

[Text] Following his inspection of the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Complex project, the Minister of Energy announced that continuation of work on this project was not feasible because the cost is exceeding that stipulated in the agreement.

In an interview with the PARS News Agency after his inspection tour, Brother Ghafuri-Fard, Minister of Energy, who, together with several cabinet members and members of the Industry Committee of the Majlis, inspected the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Complex project at Bandar Imam Khomeyni, said: "Enourmous capital has been expended on this complex: 20 billion tumans up to now. In some sections, 80 to 90 percent of the project has been completed while 92 percent of the sections connected with the complex's power plants have also been completed.

He continued: "This project has been rather satanic, requiring excessive expenditures. Therefore, we must resolve on this matter whether to complete this project by concluding a new agreement with Japan or to dismiss this Japanese firm and conclude an agreement with another country." The Minister added: Continuation of work on this project is of course not feasible under the previous agreement because the project's cost is exceeding that stipulated in the agreement. Of course, the Japanese also have a series of objections to the previous agreement."

The Minister further stated: "Talks between Japan and Iran as whether to continue or stop construction work on the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Complex project are to begin next week."

CSO: 4640/86



## BRIEFS

**KHOMAYNI TERRORISM FAILS**--The mode of Khomeyni's murderers in Bahrain and the revelation of the childish plan to assassinate officials of neighboring governments have raised great doubts among political circles who think that either the imam of Jamaran is the devoted and involuntary servant of (?hands) that want to upset the calm and stability of the Persian Gulf, or that he is a dangerous lunatic who is unable to discern what he is doing. Truly, what is going on in Jamaran? What is certain, is that the residence of this lunatic, which has turned into a decision-making center instead of the state organizations [words indistinct] and determines even a foreign policy for the Ministry of Foreign affairs, has been a place where ruffians and knife wielders come and go to receive orders from the insane imam (?on their terrorist missions). But since none of the jobs of ruling clergy in our country are based on logic, system and programming, fortunately their activities in the field of sabotage and terrorism too have failed. Because today even terrorist activities need expertise, special training and courses without which it is impossible for terrorist plans to succeed, but Khomeyni's terrorists are (?ruffians and knife wielders) who, if not in prison until yesterday, were [words indistinct] (?in ill-famed quarters of the city). A look at the activities of the past few days by the knife wielders sent by Jamaran to London and Bahrain proves this point very well. Realities clearly show that on the international scene the mullah of Jamaran is trying to build a good name for himself like the name enjoyed by his (?agent), Col al-Qadhdhafi of Libya--with this difference, however--that Mr al-Qadhdhafi has based his rule and foreign policy on terrorism and he should be given credit for at least showing expertise in this [words indistinct] while Khomeyni who--in view of his bloodthirsty nature should have a natural talent for terrorism--has shown great (inefficiency even in this field). [Excerpts] [NC171548 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 16 Dec 81]

**MOKHBER ASSASSINATION**--One of the officials of the 13th precinct committee of Tehran, Sheykh Seyyed 'Abdolkarim Mokhber, has been murdered by two armed youths. According to news agencies, Iranian combatants have recently started to intensify their attacks against officials of committees in Tehran and other provinces. Sheykh 'Abdolkarim Mokhber was revolutionarily executed by two armed youths on his way from his house to the 13th precinct revolution committee. The combatants were able to escape the scene of the attack. A clandestine

transmitter calling itself the Voice of Iran, the voice of which can be heard in Iran, announced last night that an underground organization calling itself the Venturers of Iran [Janbazan-e Iran] issued a nightletter in Tehran assuming responsibility for killing Sheykh 'Abdolkarim Mokhber. This clandestine transmitter announced that in the nightletter the Venturers of Iran warned all members of committee in the capital that if they do not stop their activities, they will be targets at opportune times as an act of vengeance for the blood shed by the youths of Tehran. [Text] [NC181916 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 18 Dec 81]

TERRORISTS TO EUROPE, MIDEAST--The Mojahedin-e Khalq has announced in Paris that Khomeyni's regime has sent groups of terrorists to Europe and the Middle East to export its revolution. A spokesman contacted AP and said that in efforts to export the mullahs' so-called revolution, Khomeyni's regime recently sent armed club-wielders to France and other groups of its trained terrorists to Middle East and other European countries to assassinate opponents. The Mojahedin-e Khalq spokesman said that by mobilizing its terrorists, Khomeyni's regime intends to threaten the lives of Iranians and foreigners even outside Iran. Several weeks ago the Free Voice of Iran quoted reports by its correspondents stating that 40 of Khomeyni's terrorists have arrived in Paris while 44 others have been sent to Germany to assassinate opponents of the mullahs' regime. The Free Voice of Iran research group has identified these people and has their hideouts, mostly the regime's embassies, under surveillance. [Text] [NC181756 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 18 Dec 81]

SAUDI-BAHRAIN ANTI-IRAN ALLIANCE--REUTER reports that Saudi Arabia and Bahrain intend to sign a military agreement. Following the revelation that Tehran sent terrorists to Bahrain, the Free Voice of Iran predicted that the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region would form a political-military alliance to confront the dangers they face from the Tehran regime. This forecast came closer to fulfillment with the all-embracing protest by these countries to the Tehran regime in condemning the despatch of terrorists to the areas as stated by the Persian Gulf cooperation council. In addition, REUTER, quoting the Saudi Arabian State News Agency, has now reported on a pact to be signed today in Manama between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. According to a Free Voice of Iran correspondent in Manama, Nayif Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, a Saudi Arabian minister, arrived in Bahrain today for this purpose and was welcomed. In his talks with Bahrain government officials he recalled that the signing of this agreement is the first step in the guaranteeing of the security of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. [Text] [NC192214 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 19 Dec 81]

BAHRAINI-SAUDI SECURITY PACT--Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has gone to Bahrain to (?discuss) joint security measures between the two countries. The joint Bahraini-Saudi security pacty comes after a plot by Khomeyni's government to overthrow the regime in Bahrain. The Saudi interior minister will be briefed about the results of the interrogation the captured terrorists have undergone. The terrorists, who were sent to Bahrain by Khomeyni to start unrest, assassinate political figures and carry out guerrilla operations, were arrested last week. [Text] [GF201853 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 20 Dec 81]

INFIGHTING AMONG MULLAHS--The theft, embezzlement and plunder of public funds in the foundation for the oppressed has reached such a level that now there is infighting among the mullahs. Each group is trying to obtain control over the foundation and gain more of the funds. Mullah Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis of professional mourners, in a speech yesterday criticized the directors of the foundation and said: We do not know what is taking place in the foundation. The former directors were fired some time ago for embezzlement but were not prosecuted. At the moment Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, prime minister of Khomeyni's regime, has taken control of the foundation. Mullah Hashemi-Rafsanjani, however, seems to prefer the leadership to consist of a group of the members of the professional mourners' Majlis and under his chairmanship. [Text] [GF211700 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 21 Dec 81]

WAR WITH IRAQ--Mullah 'Ali Musavi-Khamene'i, Khomeyni's Islamic president, announced yesterday that if the Iraqi army withdraws from Iranian soil the Islamic republic will announce a cease-fire and end the war with Iraq. Mullah Khamene'i added that following the cease-fire Iraq will have to pay Iran for war damage. The one responsible for beginning the war should also be found and punished. However, he stressed, following the departure of Iraqi forces from Iranian soil there will be a cease-fire. This is the first time leaders of the Islamic Republic have talked about the possibility of a cease-fire. They have always emphasized that they will continue the war until the regime in Iraq falls. [Text] [GF211656 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 21 Dec 81]

SHIRAZ EXPLOSION--It was reported today that a severe explosion that destroyed a huge apartment building heavily damaged 15 houses around it. The explosion took place at 1140 on Seyahatgar Street of Shiraz. The central news unit reported that experts present at the site quoted the power of explosion to be equivalent to 3 pounds [English unit] of TNT. Fortunately the explosion caused no fatalities. One woman and one child were badly injured. The cause of explosion has not yet been determined. [Text] [GF211751 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 21 Dec 81]

AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND--According to the central news unit, Mr Paul Stauffer, ambassador of Switzerland to the Islamic Republic of Iran, presented his credentials to the president of our country this morning. During this meeting, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, after welcoming the ambassador, said: I hope that during your tour of duty in the Islamic Republic of Iran you will be able to comprehend the naturity and spirit of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. The president added: We have respect for all the free nations in the world and we would like to have a healthy exchange of relations with such countries. I hope that your mission leads to stronger and more friendly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and your country. [Excerpt] [LD200430 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 81 LD]

LARESTAN VOLUNTEERS FOR FRONTS--A number of selfless members of the mobilization of the Lorestan Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have voluntarily departed for the battlefronts. These dear ones have been seen off by a large number of Larestan citizens. [Text] [GF210617 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 20 Dec 81 GF]

GONABAD VOLUNTEERS FOR FRONTS--Our correspondent reports from Gonabad that 105 selfless members of the Gonabad Islamic Revolution Guards Corps departed this afternoon for the battlefronts to join their courageous warriors. They were seen off by the citizens of this city. [Text] [Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Dec 81 GF]

QUCHAN VOLUNTEERS FOR FRONTS--According to our correspondent's report from Quchan, 42 volunteer members of the mobilization of the [name indistinct] Islamic Revolution Guards Corps departed this morning for the battlefronts of right against wrong following a march and listening to Hojjat ol-Eslam Abol-Hasani's speech. They were seen off by citizens of this township. [Text] [Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Dec 81 GF]

QAZVIN PRODUCE EXPORTS--Tehran, 20 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--Over 193,125 kg of raisins and 242,500 kg of dates worth 39 million rials have been exported to foreign countries by the Standards Department of Qazvin, Zanzan Province, since 22 November this year. The exported produce was sent to the Soviet Union, Hungary, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain, and Denmark. [Text] [Tehran PARS in English 1850 GMT 20 Dec 81 GF]

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT--Following the formation of a committee to concentrate government assets at the treasury general, Mr Mehdi Ghayuran has been appointed as the prime minister's representative on the committee. Brothers Hasan Motovallian and 'Abbas 'Ali Mahmudi have also been appointed as observers by the esteemed president and the High Judicial Council. [LD220330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 81 LD]

USSR SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE--The conference on plant protection and joint plant quarantine started yesterday in the plant protection organization with the participation of scientific delegations from Iran and the Soviet Union. The conference, which will last for 1 week, will discuss the latest research about plant diseases and means of controlling them as well as plant diseases which are subject to quarantine by the two countries. This conference is held every year on a rotation basis in Iran and the Soviet Union within the framework of joint agreements between the two countries. [Text] [LD250428 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 81 LD]

USSR, IRANIAN OFFICIALS MEET--Tehran, 23 Dec (PARS)--Resumption of cultural exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR was among the issues discussed when the Soviet ambassador to Tehran, Vladimir Vinogradov met and conferred with the cultural deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Dr Mahmud Brujerdi. This meeting, which was also attended by the minister plenipotentiary of the USSR, was held on Wednesday. [Excerpt] [Tehran PARS in English 1533 GMT 24 Dec 81 LD]

CSO: 4640/87

KUWAIT DAILY ON U.S. REACTION TO BEGIN STATEMENT

GF231703 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Dec 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The United States Treated Begin Like a Teenager Who Lost His Temper"]

[Text] The current unusual "dialogue" we hear about between the U.S. administration and the Israeli government needs deep meditation.

In diplomacy there is a special jargon that describes relations among countries at various levels--from zero to the boiling point. Yet Israeli Prime Minister Begin's statement implicitly and explicitly indicates true anger by a man who did not use diplomatic language to express that anger. Thus his statement was almost the sudden hysterical and mental breakdown of an Israeli layman, not of a shrewd statesman.

The U.S. administration's reaction was commensurate with the dignity of a superpower that refuses to be dragged into a wrangle of words of the vile standard to which Begin resorted. Those who expected "a king of oriental rejoinder" by Washington to Begin's statement will be disappointed.

The calm statement which the U.S. administration issued indicates that Washington has treated Begin like a "teenager" who revolted against his father in one of his temper tantrums.

Whether the current "dialogue" or argument between the United States and Israel is a true explosion or a mere play covering up other objectives, the grave point in the whole issue is that Begin's government will try, from this time onward, to expand its "authority" as a U.S. surrogate in the region, drawing power from the de facto situation. This means it will continue its aggressive temper tantrums on a level wider than that of the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights.

CSO: 4404/181



KUWAIT

PAPER SAYS U.S. PREPARING AGGRESSION AGAINST LIBYA

LD120816 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0742 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA)--AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM pointed out that none of the UN resolutions regarding the Israeli occupation of Arab land has been implemented thanks to the fact that the West, led by the United States, continuously bury such resolutions one after the other. It said that Washington is not ashamed of standing alone by the Zionist usurpation of Arab land, the rendering of the Palestinian people homeless and the crushing of the Arab man and his dignity; but at the same time the United States makes so much fuss and noise because the Soviet Union delayed the granting of an exit visa to the wife of the Jew Sakharov.

The paper said that the United States was now preparing an aggression on Libya but none of the U.S. officials call such U.S. behavior terrorism. But when an Arab refuses to submit to Israel and to U.S. domination he is called a terrorist and his action is a violation of human rights because only the Americans and the Israelis are human beings in the eyes of the United States.

CSO: 4404/181



SARKIS'S ARMY DAY SPEECH ANALYZED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-SUWALI in Arabic No 22,10-16 Aug 81 pp 12-13

[Article: "Sarkis's Speech Was 'Messages' Which Lacked Provocative Content"]

[Text] Will the Army Take Over the Coastal Route and Assume  
New Duties?

If the celebration of Army Day and the graduation of new officers was a traditional event in terms of military ceremony, it was nevertheless different this year in terms of content. President Elias Sarkis, who presented 20 officers in the army and internal security forces with their swords last Saturday, 2 August [1981], wanted to use this occasion to address the Lebanese, Arabs, and nations of the world. His address contained unusual candor, and it presented the concerns and anxieties which the small country of Lebanon is going through--from South to North, and including Beirut, al-Biq'a, and Mount Lebanon.

He wanted the speech to be a message which reflected a reality which is becoming more serious with each passing day and a speech which would bring out the dangers which are still present and which are increasing.

It was no accident that he chose the occasion of Army Day to give this type of speech. The military establishment has been maligned a great deal by slander and suspicion, just as other eminent institutions have been maligned. [President Sarkis's] response to the accusers and skeptics by emphasizing support [for the army] and stressing the importance which the government attaches to building up the army and to the role played by the army demonstrates a clear desire on the part of the government to adhere to the principles which it has put forward. One of the most prominent of these principles is reliance on the army, since "there can be no national accord without the army," and there can be no nation without that nation having its own security forces.

The president divided his speech into three parts:

1. He dealt with the situation of the army, its commitment to the system of democracy, and its role in defending it. He made an appeal for people "not to be content with the situation of injustice," not to weaken in the face of dangers, and not to go back on their oath. He stressed the role of the military in the process of rebuilding Lebanon "as a well-fortified homeland and an impregnable

nation which is the master of its fate." The president admitted that the army "reflected the painful experiences which the nation had gone through." But he nevertheless urged that these problems be overcome, as had been done before, because the army was "an institution of the Lebanese people and a reflection of them." He also responded to those who are in favor of keeping the army out of politics "since politics contributed toward paralyzing and tearing the army apart." He welcomed this point of view, saying that everyone should be in favor of this so that "we will not be in the position of a person who demands something and, at the same time, demands the opposite." These words were a clear response to those who are uneasy about the structure and policy of the army--including Lebanese and non-Lebanese political circles.

In a clear rejection of the accusations of critics, Sarkis said that he has confidence in the army, in its ability to develop and change, and in its readiness for sacrifice and its devotion. He praised "the caravans to martyrs who have drenched the land of our nation with their blood in order to prevent the occurrence of clashes which, if they occur, will be of a nature which will not be in conformity with the unity of Lebanon."

2. In the speech the president also touched upon the subject of the South, "where land, lives, and property have become fair game, where international law and custom has been violated, and where the decisions of the UN Security Council have been totally ignored." He used this occasion to repeat his warning concerning "the dangerous and complicated situation in the South." He once again called upon the Arabs to join all of their forces in order to put an end to what is going on in Lebanon. He stressed the importance of cooperation with the Arabs in a framework of joint action in order to put a stop to what is going on in the South. Sarkis also did not fail to refer to the importance of the role which the army is playing in the South together with the UN forces. In his opinion, "the extension of Lebanese sovereignty over the territories in the South is reflected by the deployment of the army in the South." He also said that the presence of the army among the steadfast people of the South is strengthening their power to survive. President Sarkis did not speak at length about the South. But he did clearly mention the sudden danger [which threatens the South] and he did appeal to the Arabs to shoulder their share of the responsibility because the South is not merely a responsibility which concerns the Lebanese.

3. The president also dealt with the subject of the national accord, especially because the graduating officers had chosen "national accord" as their class motto. His remarks concerning the national accord were brief, but they did contain an assurance concerning continuing to pursue the national accord, although he did say that the process of building the army had begun before the process of achieving the national accord. It is as if he wanted to talk about the success in meeting the challenge of uniting and rebuilding the army as opposed to the failure in meeting the challenge of uniting the country and its people.

#### Sarkis's Messages

It is clear that the president sent a number of messages to more than one party involved in the Lebanese crisis, and that he did so within the framework of a single speech given on the occasion of Army Day. Sources close to the government

say that the President of the Republic made some last-minute changes in his speech. They included omitting a paragraph which spoke of the extremely agonizing "injustice committed by our relatives." This was to be in the context of his remarks concerning the fact that the Arabs had given up dealing with the situation in Lebanon and had permitted the continuation of this situation's deterioration, knowing that it was in their power, if they wished, to contribute toward taking care of unsettled matters once and for all. He also omitted some sentences and passages which reflected some of the present reality being suffered through [by the Lebanese].

These sources close to the president interpreted this step, which was taken by the president, as a desire on his part not to bring up matters which could, if misinterpreted, prove to be a barrier on the path of finding positive solutions for the Lebanese crisis. Reactions to the speech by the president were positive. Informed circles considered it to be an example of the policy of relatively limited candor which the president, since the summit meeting at al-Ta'if, has chosen to follow in dealing with basic matters and when talking to Lebanese who have the right to have their president be frank with them. In the president's opinion, this cautious candor is enough at present when bringing up such matters, particularly because the Lebanese have begun to understand and to be understood at the same time.

The fact that the president stressed the role of the army reflects the desire of the government to emphasize that, if Lebanon is to stand on its own two feet, then the army must stand on its two feet and must shoulder its broad responsibilities throughout the territory of the nation. This is the responsibility which the commander of the army, Maj Gen Victor Khuri, spoke of in his speech to the troops on the occasion of the celebration. He said that this responsibility was a permanent and definite right which one may not back off from.

Some sources informed concerning government matters said that, in his speech which contained references to defending the army and to "a certification of good behavior," the president wanted to pave the way for measures to be taken in which the army would play a fundamental role. This is something which was stressed by the Lebanese working paper, sent to the Follow-Up Committee, which contained a clear reference to the role of the army and the missions which will be entrusted to it. Thus Sarkis's remarks about the army were in harmony with what the government had suggested in the working paper. The most important of these suggestions were the deployment of the army from South to North and along the coastal route, as well as the army's gradual takeover of new areas and gradual assumption of new duties, no matter how critical these might be--especially after the army has shown its stability and unity and has remained cohesive in spite of the blows it was subjected to, particularly along the points of contact between opposing forces.

Although barriers still stand in the way of this deployment of the army, informed sources say that preparations to overcome these barriers are already under way and have already accomplished a great deal, particularly since the army has both international support and support by the Arab countries which will enable it to assume its new duties.

Therefore the government is counting more and more on the army, and this is why there is a progressively greater desire to benefit from the success of the "army experience." The army's presence in the South has given it credibility and has, in

practice, eliminated people's reservations concerning it, even though some of these people still continue to talk loudly about these reservations. Also, the army's presence along the points of contact between opposing forces in Beirut has allowed it, in practice, to acquire strength and to establish its unity.

The increasing domestic, Arab, and international support which the role of the army has been acquiring is making it certain that the story of the army will hopefully have a happy ending before it is too late.

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CSO: 4304/159

PRIME MINISTER AL-WAZZAN DISCUSSES DOMESTIC POLITICS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 88, 17-23 Oct 81 pp 1-4

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan by Salih 'Awwad: "Shafiq Al-Wazzan Answers AL-MAJALLAH's Questions: Who Will Ignite the Situation in Lebanon? Why Have They Opened Fire on Your Government? Are You Biased Toward Sarkis? What is the Truth of the Situation Regarding the Phalange, and Stopping Dealings With Israel? What Will Lebanon Ask of the Next Arab Summit?"]

[Text] The Lebanese prime minister, Shafiq al-Wazzan, in a private and comprehensive interview with AL-MAJALLAH, stressed that the government was continuing on its course to get Lebanon out of its tragedy, despite groups who obstruct this country's return to normal life. In this interview, al-Wazzan replied to the campaigns directed against his government, and denied that he was "siding" with President Sarkis.

He also spoke about the recent explosions and their goals, Lebanon's demands to the next Arab summit, and the case of the French ambassador's assassination in Beirut, as well as relations with the Palestinian Resistance and other issues that are presently evident on the Lebanese scene. Here is the interview with al-Wazzan:

[Question] Voices have been raised recently, demanding your government's resignation. Do you consider this merely limited political noise-making, or is there a prepared plan in which local and foreign groups are participating, aimed at bringing down your government?

[Answer] There are various positions with regard to the government, fluctuating between a desire for limited political manipulation and a striving to go beyond that, in terms of goals and objectives. We are on the threshold of a wait-and-see stage, full of general and fateful anticipations and expectations. These positions have begun to take on definite and programmed forms that serve their directions and goals. I believe, among those voices that you mentioned as recently growing louder, that my voice and the government's voice, its goals and directions, are being heard and are penetrating the minds and hearts. The government is continuing on its course of accord and unification, striving to extricate Lebanon from the quagmire of tragedy in which it is still flailing about after nearly 7 years. This is the basic course that, in these dangerous and fateful circumstances, we are required to follow with care and determination, hopeful that the voice of saving the nation, the unity of its territory and people and its destiny will be louder and more effective than any other voice these days.



[Question] One notes that the call for the government's dismissal has coincided with the regime's last year. Do you think that the opening fire against the government is intended as opening fire against the regime, in the context of a battle for the new presidency, or are there other matters pertaining to you personally?

[Answer] Perhaps in asking your question, you have put your finger on the reason for the negative positions which have unexpectedly cropped up without a specific or sufficiently new cause, especially since basic accomplishments have been achieved in the general situation through the Arab Follow-up Committee, represented by consolidation of the cease-fire, the initiative to open the corridors between the two parts of the capital, and bringing a group of Lebanese back into the Lebanese fold, after this faction made its move through a statement stopping their dealings with Israel. We have completed the basic steps toward undertaking more serious steps toward achieving reconciliation and the start of returning the country to normal life. Accordingly, the many groups that are harming this positive course must work to eliminate that damage occurring to their positions and gains in various ways and means. The Lebanese scene has witnessed a campaign of random explosions, as well as a campaign of negative moves and positions. There are many reasons and complex, multiple objectives, just as the Lebanese scene is multifaceted and complex. As regards the "opening of fire" having a connection to me personally. I don't believe that. Nothing has surfaced from the positions of others that gives any evidence of that. Nowever, it is difficult to differentiate between my national and unification positions, and my personal positions which are based on the same principles and directions. Perhaps these positions have disturbed some and have upset negative plans. That is not important. The important thing is we are preventing the nation from becoming more disturbed and uneasy, and its existence and foundations from convulsing.

[Question] Those who demand the government's resignation say that you have chosen to side with President Sarkis at the expense of the street and quarters that supported you, especially in the area of constant pressure on behalf of the "Lebanese Front." What is your response?

[Answer] I told you in my previous answer the reasons for some of the activities which are based on tactical, programmed purposes and specific goals more than on national interests, a desire to achieve reconciliation and to restore the country to normal. My political and national positions are of long standing and evolve along with the passage of days, even this day, both before and after I assumed responsibility. They are still the same national, Islamic, sound positions. I am the son of the national street, its national battles, efforts, demonstrations and demands. I was taught and raised in its pure air. My positions and directions are based on what the nationalism of this street taught. I therefore take the responsible position that is continually biased toward and pressuring for restoring the nation to ways of life and permanency, to achieve reconciliation of its sons (not on behalf of any one group whatever) on the basis of equality, cooperation, progress and true justice. The congruity between President Sarkis and myself is based on mutual national convictions. I am not biased toward him, nor he toward me. Both of us are biased toward the interests of the nation and achieving them. I challenge them to prove that I am biased toward anything besides these interests, whereas I can refer to many positions which were completely satisfactory, starting with decisive positions against internationalization, positions of support for



several national issues, and not the least, Cheysson's meeting with 'Arafat or the acceptance of Libya's offer to establish an air defense cover.

#### End to Dealings With Israel

[Question] The Lebanese National Movement says that the government is plunging into a game, aimed at making the question of severing relations with Israel merely a matter of form, that it is rashly embarking on a process aimed at restoring self-respect to the Phalange after the battle of Zahlah and its consequences. What is your reply?

[Answer] All Lebanese have begun to understand, after all the calamities that Lebanon has experienced during nearly 7 years, including Zahlah, that the way of fire and destruction will only drag the nation into more death, ruin and tragedy. Perhaps the Phalange, after what occurred in Zahlah, have learned that through violence it is only possible to end up on a blocked road. Its return to the national fold, its unity and salvation were conditional on an end to dealings with Israel. The intention here, naturally, was a permanent, effective end, and not bound for a limited period, nor merely an announced end by a communique or statement. Consequently, the process of severing relations with Israel cannot be a matter of form, but rather, it is a basic demand and prior condition which must be fulfilled on a permanent basis. Our efforts have been, and still continue, with all tendencies and directions, to achieve national accord. If the battle of Zahlah made those who fabricated it, based on imprecise and erroneous calculations, understand some matters of which they were ignorant at that time, then we call on everyone to understand the reality of the Lebanese situation and the necessity for national reconciliation, based on its fourteen premises, and a spirit of accord based on justice, equality and the evolving look at the future, which eliminates past evil deeds and shortcomings and looks at tomorrow's Lebanon, when its deep wounds have healed, its tragedy overcome, and its affairs based on firm and developing principles.

[Question] When your government was formed, some thought it was a caretaker government, until a political government could be formed. Do you believe that after all this period, the stage of replacing you has begun?

[Answer] You should ask this question of those who were kind enough to bestow this name to my government, as you mentioned in your question. Bear in mind that this government has dealt with major incidents that it has been encountering since its inception, as well as with crucial political issues. It has adopted reconciliation as a base for its concerns and directions, and today is affording it its efforts and aspirations. Despite the negative aspects that have existed on the Lebanese scene, this government has been able to raise the reconciliation issue in depth and carry out many of its preliminary preparations. It has also started taking some steps toward it, despite the potholes, stumbling blocks and having to fight groups opposed to any accomplishments achieved under its aegis. This government, therefore, has established that it is not a caretaker government. On the contrary, it is a government that bears all the responsibilities that it encounters, from the point of view of settling matters and dealing with the most difficult national problems. In the past, I have rejected putting any label on my government. I have said that it was a government which came to rule in accordance with all the constitutional powers that it enjoys. As regards your statement about the start of

a stage to replace me and my government, I think that I have answered that sufficiently in my answer to all the previous questions. Let me just add that we will continue to bear our national responsibilities until the national interests determine an appropriate interpretation to any developments or changes or future basic contingencies.

Who Assassinated the French Ambassador?

[Question] There are rumors and information about the assassination of the French ambassador, Louis Delamare. Some quarters mention Syria in this connection. In your opinion, as head of the executive authority, have you reached anything firm which could shed light on the perpetrators of this incident?

[Answer] This matter is completely within the purview of the judicial authorities since it is still in their hands. Moreover, investigations are continuing tenaciously and in earnest, to uncover the facts surrounding this unfortunate incident, which best exemplifies the tragedy of the Lebanese situation. This important matter, therefore, cannot be dealt with through rumors and information that drag in the name of this quarter or that, especially the name of Syria. Uncovering the facts of this incident is subject to the results of the judicial investigations.

Explosions

[Question] The recent explosions are again alarming Lebanon. On what quarter do you place responsibility for these explosions?

[Answer] Responsibility for these explosions rests on the shoulders of a major Zionist plot being woven around Lebanon. It still shifts from specific explosions to other methods, according to the requirements of the conspiracy's circumstances, its goals and objectives. Those responsible for Lebanon's tragedy, both directly and indirectly, are many. Those responsible for the recent explosions are determined to sabotage any positive progress toward saving the nation. This makes it incumbent on the Lebanese to feel more responsibility for solidarity, cooperation and agreement, for the purpose of uncovering this dreadful plot and defusing it at all levels.

[Question] Some information indicates international initiatives to solve the Lebanese crisis. The French minister of foreign relations, Claude Cheysson, recently stated that his country was prepared to assist in finding a solution to this crisis. Is there anything definite? Why doesn't the Lebanese government take clearer initiatives in this area?

[Answer] Lebanese initiatives toward solving the Lebanese crisis are clearly defined. We are doing all we can on the domestic, Arab and international levels, locally through our constant efforts to achieve reconciliation, which we feel is fundamental and necessary to lay a foundation for and accomplish any radical solutions for the nation's crisis. On the Arab level, we are asking for a unified Arab strategy to confront the clear, vicious Zionist aspirations, whether in South Lebanon or in any part of the Arab World, toward which Israel has directed a new policy which no longer differentiates between a confrontation state and a supportive

country. We are all in the same situation, facing the same dangers, the same greed, the same vicious, expansionist aggressive policy. Internationally, we keep on dealing with Israeli attacks in the UN and the Security Council, with every means possible. Lebanon submits requests with regard to any international effort aimed at solving the Middle East crisis, within the framework of a comprehensive solution based on principles of justice, the right of peoples to self-determination, and fulfilling the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their state on their national soil. All our actions are marked by complete clarity. Our practical initiatives on all levels are premised on the maximum capabilities at our disposal. We cannot permit ourselves to despair, despite the gravity of negative directions that surround us from outside, threatening Lebanon's existence and destiny. As for the statements and positions of the French foreign minister, they have defined his broad guidelines on more than one occasion. France will only find a way to solve the Lebanese crisis through the Arab framework. Since there are many facets hidden in this crisis, international efforts can help only when this assistance is within this premise. French participation could be positive and productive.

#### The Follow-up Committee Framework

[Question] In light of the apparent difficulty with the problem of opening the corridors and the question of confrontation lines, the resolutions of the Arab Follow-up Committee might be influential. Is there a specific alternative in this regard?

[Answer] The alternative is increased determination, resolve and tireless efforts to avoid all the pitfalls occurring or which might occur. We believe that national reconciliation and the start of Lebanon's course toward salvation would in fact be the easiest and firmest way, with the support of our Arab brothers within the framework that they jointly deemed necessary and decided upon. This is the framework of the Arab Follow-up Committee. Accordingly, we adhere to it to the maximum degree. If there is a need to develop it and make it more effective, we will agree with the Arab brothers on this course when necessary.

#### Arab Summit

[Question] Lebanon has called for an emergency Arab summit. However, as is apparent, its call was not granted. There is an Arab summit coming soon. Has the Lebanese government a comprehensive concept that it wants to raise before the Arab presidents and kings? And what is the basis of this concept?

[Answer] Lebanon's call to convene an emergency Arab summit was, according to the wording of its request, to study the South Lebanon situation and to draw up a unified Arab strategy to confront the Zionist enemy's dangers and greed. Apart from this unified strategy, consequently, it is aimed at achieving a comprehensive Arab opposition to the Zionist dangers against the entire Arab Nation, especially after the extension of Zionist aggression, greed and arrogance to the heart of the Arab Nation, reaching to Baghdad. With respect to the Lebanese government's position, whether the Lebanese request is complied with or not, Lebanon which today has become the sole Arab hotspot with Israel, which daily is exposed to direct and indirect Israeli dangers and attacks, and which is still bathed in blood, has complied

fully with its pan-Arab duty on the field of endeavor, sacrifice and dedication. The official call to hold the summit was to touch the Arabs' hearts and national, pan-Arab sensitivities, to remind them of their duty to their unfortunate brother, Lebanon, and to themselves and their countries, and of the unexpected dangers which have begun to close in around everyone. In a summit, whether held at Lebanon's request or held periodically, the Lebanese request will remain the same, and the Lebanese concept to be presented to the Arab brothers will be based on this framework.

#### Regarding a Palestinian-Lebanese Summit

[Question] In light of successive incidents, what is your evaluation of the Lebanese government's relations with the Resistance Movement? In your opinion, as a friend of Arafat's, should it not be playing a role in holding a Palestinian-Lebanese summit, which might remove many of the pending issues?

[Answer] Lebanon's relations with the Resistance Movement, despite all the pitfalls to which they are exposed, are cohesive relations of solidarity, induced by pan-Arab, national and humane obligations. Lebanon will not retreat under any circumstances or for any motive from its full support for the Palestinian people's struggle aimed at restoring their stolen rights, their self-determination and establishing their state on their national soil. Lebanese effort and Lebanese sacrifices will continue and increase. Any difficulties that these relations might encounter must be avoided and overcome. The foremost obstacle would be for either the Lebanese or Palestinian side to keep their interests separate from the other side's interests. We believe that any injury to the Palestinians, especially if its origin was Lebanese, would consequently be injurious to Lebanon. Accordingly, any harm to the Lebanese, especially if its origin was Palestinian, would be harmful to the Palestinians and their cause. We have constantly called for strict and resolute application of the resolutions and charters pertaining to the situation of the Palestinian Resistance in Lebanon. Just as the Palestinian struggle, especially these days, requires Arab support and assistance in general and Lebanese in particular, so too, Lebanon also needs Arab support and assistance in general and Palestinian in particular. As regards calling for a Lebanese-Palestinian summit, this will undoubtedly come about, by virtue of the constant good intentions and desire for coordination and cooperation. We have so far practised this; an increasingly comfortable climate exists between the Lebanese government and the Resistance, in which there is mutual trust.

[Question] In light of Lebanon's past 7 years, what is your vision of this country's future in all the various fields and areas?

[Answer] Look for Lebanese steadfastness and continuity, and for that miracle that, for 7 years, has not ended those continuing woes. The name of Lebanon is still on the map, despite all the troubles, desolation and destruction. It has faced the fiercest challenges and harshest adversaries. The government still beseeches the Lebanese to achieve their national reconciliation of firm, just and progressive principles, and is still throwing all its weight behind this direction, which must ultimately be achieved, no matter how long it takes to overcome the conspiracy. This dynamic and productive country will undoubtedly rise anew from its troubles and be restored as a leader in all fields and areas, as it used to be, and more.



PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 22,10-16 Aug 81 pp 10-11

[Article by Emil Khuri: "The Presidential Campaign Has Started, and There Will Be 'Changes' Next Fall"]

[Text] The New President May Be Elected Before the Date Set by the Constitution, and "Preparing Him" Is One of the Tasks of Philip Habib.

Washington and Damascus Are the Main Voters, and an Extension [in Term of Office] for Sarkis Is Not Unlikely.

The campaign for the Presidency of the Republic has begun, and preparations are being made [for the winner of the election] to make the trip over to Ba'abda Palace before any trips can be undertaken between the eastern and western parts of the country. Starting now, this campaign will upstage everything else and will both open doors and close other doors.

In a meeting characterized by chatter and joking around, which was held in conjunction with the meetings of the Arab Follow-Up Committee, the Syrian minister of foreign affairs, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, said: "We are able to guarantee two-thirds of the votes of the [Lebanese] deputies for the candidate whom we want as President of the Republic. We believe that the next President of the Republic should be a 'tough guy' from North Lebanon." Michel Edde, the Lebanese minister of information, jokingly answered him: "If that's so, then there's nobody but al-(Dankurah)." In meetings which have previously taken place between Khaddam and a delegation from the National Movement, there have been discussions about the upcoming presidential campaign and the various names put up as candidates for this office were reviewed. Informed sources say that, as is done almost every time, before holding the presidential campaign it is necessary to have the campaigns to exchange the "prisoners" of the government which the presidency depends on--these "prisoners" being the president of the Chamber of Deputies and the prime minister.

Therefore next September will be the month when these two campaigns begin.

These same sources say that Kamil al-As'ad already chose his stance as well as his position with regard to the government when he decided to withdraw his representative, Engineer Anwar al-Sabah, from the government. All attempts which were made to

convince him to change his mind about this decision were unsuccessful. This is in spite of the fact that the Lebanese working paper included an independent plan concerning the South and in spite of the meeting which he held with the Follow-Up Committee in order to present his opinion with regard to the South and in order to hear, with his own ears, what the Follow-Up Committee had to say.

But none of this mattered because Mr al-As'ad had already made his decision and had to stick with it. It was the decision to change the government and to prepare for the upcoming campaign. It was said that this took place in cooperation with Rashid Karami and that the price of this might be that Sa'ib Salam and his group will have to disassociate themselves from Kamil al-As'ad, and consequently from the Independent Bloc of Deputies.

Informed sources expect that the government will engage in its first open campaign against Kamil al-As'ad next fall, with a candidate who will be chosen right now and will have Shiite support from the Amal Movement and the Front for the Preservation of the South.

But in his campaign, Kamil al-As'ad, in addition to [the support of] a majority of the deputies, can guarantee [the support of] effective forces in the Lebanese arena which would make the victory of any candidate opposing him something which cannot be guaranteed--as has happened in every previous campaign. This is particularly true since Kamil al-As'ad's being at the head of the legislative body of government is necessary for the forces which are making plans for the presidential campaign. This is because he, in view of his political experience, is able to run this campaign and is able to play an effective and influential role in the course of the elections--participating with the government in guiding the elections and controlling the course which they take.

Before the government attempts to start the campaign for the office of president of the Chamber of Deputies, in order to disconcert Kamil al-As'ad, Mr al-As'ad may start a campaign for the office of prime minister in order to disconcert the government itself. A ministerial source expressed his fears that the fuel crisis and the social problems, which will blow in at the end of the summer, in addition to the government's inability to open up even one passageway between the eastern and western parts of the country, will be the beginning of an accumulation of black clouds on the government's horizon and will result in violent winds blowing down and uprooting the government.

The objective of uprooting the Wazzan government is to achieve one of two things--either to create a ministerial crisis which will become a government crisis, or to make it necessary to have Rashid Karami become prime minister so that he would be the person in the government who would be effective, influential, and in control of the course which the presidential elections would initially take.

A responsible source says, in this connection, that the Wazzan government would remain even if it resigned, just as the government of Salim al-Huss remained [after it resigned], and would continue to manage affairs until an agreement could be reached to form a new government, even if the presidential elections have to be held after the government has resigned and is inactive. Then it would not be possible for anybody to impose a prime minister on the government except within the framework of a national accord and coalition.



This same source did not consider it unlikely that the government would agree to an amendment of the constitution in order to bring closer the date of the presidential elections and have them take place in May [1982]. This would be done in order to avoid the political and security perils and complications which might occur and which might prevent these elections from taking place in a normal and constitutional manner if the period for holding the elections is a short and fixed one as it is right now--the one-month period before the end of the president's term. If a ministerial or government crisis actually does occur, then it will not be possible to allow this crisis to remain unsolved until July 1982, the date which the constitution sets for the election. If this date is changed, then the crisis could only continue until April or May [1982].

Observers are not so worried about who the candidates will be for the office of President of the Republic. They are more interested in who will be the chief voters who will decide the outcome of the campaign. This is unlike times in the past, when circumstances were normal and when the main candidates were the ones who decided the destiny of the voters.

Some officials feel that the two chief voters are the U.S. and Syria, and that these two nations have their local auxiliary voters, which are the Lebanese Front, the National Movement, the Independent Bloc of Deputies, and the Amal Movement.

One minister, when talking about the upcoming presidential elections, said that it is enough for the U.S. and Syria, or for Syria and the Lebanese Front, to come to an agreement and this will then decide the fate of one of the candidates for the presidency and will guarantee his victory. He said that a continuation of the dispute concerning the choice of the candidate for president will serve to complicate matters and will open the windows of Lebanese politics and security matters and allow unknown winds to blow inside. He said that both Syria and the Lebanese Front are capable of halting the election process and preventing it from being held in a normal fashion.

He added that a 2-year extension of President Sarkis's term of office might be the solution to the predicament of the continuation of the dispute concerning choosing a candidate who is acceptable to the chief voters, and said that this might prevent President Sarkis himself from possibly undertaking to pull the sword of Damocles, which is being held over people's heads, out of its scabbard and demand the withdrawal of the Deterrent Forces from Lebanese territory, otherwise he will pull away its cover of legitimacy and announce his resignation as president of Lebanon. If that happens, then one of the chief voters will be leaving the presidential election campaign arena and this will cause the complexion of the campaign to fully change.

It could be that the objective of his demand that some of the leaders amend the constitution in order to bring the date of the presidential elections closer is to hold the elections while the Deterrent Forces are still in Lebanon.

One of the tasks of Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy, is to come up with a presidential candidate who is acceptable to the parties concerned. The Arab Follow-Up Committee would then contribute toward achieving the objectives of this mission by campaigning in their favor in the Arab world. This mission

[of Philip Habib's] is similar to the mission undertaken by Dean Brown when preparing a successor for President Franjiyah and is also similar to Mr Murphy's mission when he prepared a successor for President Sham'un.

Just as President Shihab, America's candidate, in the past was approved by Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and this fact was relayed to Mr Murphy, the U.S. special envoy at that time, today America's candidate for the Lebanese presidency has to be approved by President Asad of Syria and this information has to be relayed to Philip Habib, the U.S. special envoy--and the Chamber of Deputies then will give its official stamp of approval!!

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# VARIOUS PARTIES BLAMED FOR GASOLINE CRISIS

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 22,10-16 Aug 81 p 14

[Article: Did He Search For the Policy or the Shortcoming?"]

[Text] Baydun Does Not Reply to His Accusers, and  
Attributes the Crisis to Politics.

At a fiery meeting of the Chamber of Deputies during the time of Lebanon's newly-independent government, one of the deputies mounted a violent attack against the late prime minister, Riyadh al-Sulh. Some people thought that, when his turn would come to speak, he would reply to this deputy in a way which would pay him back twofold.

However, Riyadh al-Sulh did not reply, and this was a cause of amazement for those present. One person got excited and asked him: "Riyadh Bey, why don't you reply to him?" He answered: "If he says that al-(Khishn) and al-Khasin) are the three daughters of Mu'awiyah, then why should I answer him?" Al-Sulh, in saying this, was referring to the fact that the person who had attacked him was ignorant of the subject he was talking about and was telling lies which had nothing to do with the facts.

This incident is related by Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, the minister of industry and oil, whenever he is asked to comment on the numerous opinions expressed which say that he bears the responsibility for the gasoline crisis. He adds that he was a man of moderation before being part of the government, and that he does not intend to change his approach while in the government because moderation is the only way to achieve mutual understanding, even with one's adversaries.

But the "moderation" of Mr Baydun does not deny the accusations. There really is a gasoline crisis. The minute it disappeared it was brought back by the skirmishes in Tripoli which, if they had continued for 2 more days, would have made the crisis much worse. This crisis began suddenly. There were many reasons for the crisis, and everyone is evaluating it according to his own opinion.

Some people direct their accusations at the Ministry of Oil, saying that it would have been able to avoid the crisis if the Tripoli refinery had been working at full capacity, particularly because the al-Zahrani refinery, with its daily production of 400,000 liters, is nearly enough to cover the consumption of the South.

Other people say that the gasoline crisis was going to occur within the space of a month, at most--even if the Israelis had not bombed the al-Zahrani refinery--because the reserves of the two refineries had been used up 3 months before that time. The reason this happened was the fact that crude oil is no longer coming to Lebanon because, for reasons which are unknown, Lebanon is refusing to make the necessary payments for it.

Still other people accuse the minister of not holding legal public biddings to entice offers to purchase quantities of gasoline in view of the fact that three of the four offers were not backed by a bank guaranty and because the minister of oil decided to assign the job to the (Baba Naft) Co., with the rates being higher than those of previous bids, and in spite of the fact that this company did not fulfill the legal requirements.

Still others are wondering how the price of transporting a single barrel of gasoline could continue to go up, from \$0.70 to \$1.70, because the problem of late payments was solved while the price did not change.

And there are others who accuse some parties of increasing the intensity of the crisis which did not have to last as long as it did, and they say that political reasons were involved.

What Does the Minister Say?

What does Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, the minister of industry and oil, say about all of this? What does he say about those who say that the gasoline crisis is an artificial one?

[Mr Baydun] There was no gasoline crisis. Even after the al-Zahrani refinery was bombed, it was possible to bear the consequences for a while. The real reason for the crisis is the fact that the coastal route between Tripoli and Beirut has been cut off. This road was what assured the speed and ease of transporting the gasoline from both the Tripoli and Baniyas refineries.

[Question] But there is information which says that the bombing of the al-Zahrani refinery was not the reason for the crisis since what this refinery produces (400,000 liters per day) is nearly enough to cover the consumption needs of the South. This information says that the crisis was about to happen within a month because the Tripoli refinery was working at half capacity.

[Answer] This is not true, this is not true. For a while the Tripoli refinery worked at half capacity. However, this had no direct effect on gasoline production. Production only decreased from 1.5 million liters to 1.2 million liters per day. It was possible to make up for this with the al-Zahrani refinery. As for petroleum derivatives such as mazut [medium-grade heating oil] and fuel oil, their production was affected little because of the existence, in case of emergency, of a special unit which refines these two materials.

[Question] But does the al-Zahrani refinery not almost cover the needs of the South?  
south

[Answer] No this is not true. Lebanon depends on the production of both refineries. Gaps in demand are covered by importing gasoline. Domestic production

accounts for between 60 million and 65 million liters per day, and imports account for between 20 million and 25 million liters per day. The Tripoli refinery produces 1.5 million liters per day, whereas the al-Zahrani refinery provides 1.5 million liters per day, whereas the al-Zahrani refinery provides between 500,000 and 600,000 liters per day. This means that two-thirds of our gasoline is produced domestically and the other third is imported. In addition to this, imported gasoline is put in storage tanks in al-Zahrani, Tripoli, and al-Dawrah. When al-Zahrani was hit, the supply lines between the storage tanks and the loading centers were hit, and this prevented us from using the gasoline in the storage tanks. Then we repaired these supply lines. The fact is that it was possible to avoid this crisis, but this, for many reasons, is not what happened. The result of this then was:

1. A cessation of distribution of between 600,000 and 700,000 liters of gasoline per day after the al-Zahrani refinery was hit. In addition to this, there were no more deliveries of stored imported gasoline.
2. The al-Zahrani refinery was not able to furnish more than 1.2 million liters per day--whereas it had been providing about 1.5 million liters per day--because it happened that the refinery unit was undergoing refinery unit maintenance at that time.
3. There was a delay of several days in the arrival of a gasoline tanker in Lebanon.

However, all of this was not apt to constitute a crisis since the market was hungry [for gasoline] [as published]. Any gasoline station owner was not apt to keep a stock of more than 3,000 or 4,000 liters in his station. However, when the crisis began, all of the gasoline station owners began to seize passing gasoline trucks in order to fill their gasoline storage tanks. This happened along all the roads on which the gasoline trucks drove. For example, no gasoline would get from North Lebanon to al-Biq'a' until the storage tanks in the North were full. The same thing happened with gasoline going from al-Biq'a' to Beirut. Real relief did not occur until we started glutting the market with gasoline. We began to flood the markets every day with between 3 million and 4 million liters. This is what caused a difference in prices to arise. The quantities of gasoline which arrived in normal fashion in Beirut were sold at the official price. However, the quantities of gasoline which arrived [in Beirut] after transportation fees had been added to their cost--since the gasoline station owners had to hire armed guards to protect the gasoline--were sold at higher prices.

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# KORDOFAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER REVIEWS PLANS

Khartoum AL-SAHFAH in Arabic 20 Aug 81 p 7

[Article by Hasan Nabil: "Letter From Kordofan Province: Agriculture Minister Speaks on Agricultural Policy and Forthcoming Plans and Projects of Ministry; Province Experienced No Corn Crises: 1980/1981 Crop Totaled 4,835,000 Bags"]

[Text] Doctor al-Taj Fadlallah, agriculture and natural resources minister for the Kordofan Province, spoke to the press for 2 hours about agricultural policy: the plans and projects of his ministry for the next phase; the modernization and development of traditional farming methods; the policy concerning the distribution of mechanized farming projects, and the provisions of the ministry regarding the production of the next harvest season.

Before going into details about the minister's lengthy talk on this topic, we first of all would like to stress the fact that the Kordofan Province has never failed, in spite of the basic barrenness of its soil, to produce a variety of abundant crops, especially corn. Indeed, official statistics obtained from reliable sources have confirmed that the number of cultivated areas has increased steadily and the production is constantly rising. For the record, at the time of the 1978/1979 harvest season, the overall area planted with corn was 1,185,000 feddans, which gave an output of about 2,811,882 sacks of corn for the whole province. At the time of the 1979/1980 harvest, although the total area planted with corn was less than it was for the previous harvest, and amounted only to 835,271 feddans, the output nevertheless reached 3,177,490 sacks. At the time of the 1980/1981 harvest--at the time of that so-called harvest crisis--when the cultivated areas covered only 455,509 feddans, the output of the corn crop reached about 4,333,600 sacks. Considering that the annual consumption--at least according to statistical estimates--does not exceed 1 million sacks for the northern and southern areas of the province, how is it possible to talk about any crises affecting the province or any deficiency in its production?

The Province of Kordofan, the minister said, is rich in agricultural resources, which may be profitably developed for both the province and the Sudan as a whole. The policy of the ministry consequently concentrates on improving the services extended to the farmers, such as improved seeds, agricultural guidance or protection against plant epidemics. We are ready for the forthcoming harvest



season. We have all the means at our disposal to start the operation, including machinery and pesticides, and they have already been distributed in the various areas of the province. Pest control campaigns will start on schedule next September.

With reference to guidance, the agriculture minister said, a team of agricultural advisers has gone to the productive areas. Moreover, the secretary general of the ministry and I will visit all the areas, this week, and check on the progress of farming operations in sandy areas. The reports received by the ministry, he asserted, have confirmed that fall usually is excellent in all the areas, and very good crops may accordingly be anticipated for this harvest season.

With reference to the policy of the ministry regarding the development of wooded areas and aimed at taking advantage of their cultivation in order to solve the citizens' problems and make things easier for them, the minister asserted, they have started growing acacia seedlings in the eastern, central and southern areas of the Province of North Kordofan in order to increase the production of gum arabic, which is one of the cash crops of the province. That has been implemented under the national gum arabic production project. In the field of forest products, the minister announced, there is a new project aimed at providing North Kordofan with materials from South Kordofan, such as charcoal, wood and sawn timber. This particular production shall start next May, and there will be central storage depots for these products, located in the cities of North Kordofan. The purpose of this project, as the minister said, is to cover the citizens' requirements concerning such products, on the one hand, and ease the pressure on the forest resources of North Kordofan, on the other hand.

With reference to grazing lands, the minister asserted, there is a concentration of activity in this field regarding the improvement of such lands, to be connected with dairy farms currently being established in the various regions. Under the policy of the ministry, there is also a focus on forestry in the central and northern regions of North Kordofan because they are threatened by desert encroachment, and the farming production of these regions is about to disappear entirely. With reference to the concern of the ministry about livestock resources, the minister announced, projects have been established regarding this matter, and vaccination teams are getting ready to head for the various regions. With the support of the national economy and Finance Ministry of the province, we have been able to provide vehicles and supplies to meet the shortage which we previously experienced in this regard. On the other hand, the dairy products development project has already started producing in North Kordofan. For this harvest season, we shall start regulating prices, so that the ministry may make things easier for the citizens at large.

One of our goals, Dr al-Taj said with reference to the plans and projects of the ministry concerning the next phase, is to create a department for the purpose of increasing the availability of improved seeds in the province. Under the new setup of the ministry, we have an agency called "agricultural modernization and cooperation." The task of this agency is to prepare a guideline for the

improvement of traditional farming methods. We want the farmer to be aware of the presence of the Ministry of Agriculture in the province. We want him to know that he will receive services, and that diversified technical counseling will be placed at the disposal of the small farmer. Under its policy, the ministry promotes the establishment of farming cooperatives in connection with the Agricultural Bank as a solution to the financing problems faced by the small farmers, particularly after it was announced that usurious interest charges pertaining to the loans of the Agricultural Bank have been discontinued, as well as mortgages and guarantees. All this will help the farmers to secure orderly financing without any pressure. Before the end of this transition period, the ministry is taking steps so that every region will have a complete agricultural office to take care of the farming methods existing in the corresponding region, and the people in charge of those offices will be able to have the assistance of the Regions Council in order to plan local development projects and ensure their technical supervision.

As regards mechanized farming projects, the agriculture minister asserted, they still are national projects, and directives were issued to stop any farming beyond the fixed limits in order to provide the optimum conditions for their development. With reference to the Khawr al-Jabal project, Dr al-Taj said, we have obtained from the central agriculture minister the authorization to create a commission which will study the improvement and development of the lands covered by this project, and the modernization of the farming methods used in this area. We hope that the continuous irrigation system will be extended to this project from Tardat al-Rahd. All that will depend on overall surveys. The lands of Jabal al-Dair will be surveyed, mapped and distributed as soon as the fall season is over.

The corn problem, the minister said in reply to a question we asked about this matter, is not a question of production. The production is sufficient to meet local consumption requirements, and even to effect exports. However, the problem is the fact that corn has become a cash crop as other crops have. We, consequently, have to adapt our policy on this basis, and we accordingly have to take some administrative measures in order to set aside a reasonable amount of the production, which will be bought by the government and kept as reserves, at the beginning of every harvest season. We also have to expand the area farmed with mechanical equipment in order to increase production. For this harvest season, we have already started to invite the farmers, through their farming cooperatives, to increase the corn growing areas in these regions which use traditional farming methods.

The corn crisis currently experienced by this province is a fictitious crisis. As we already mentioned it at the beginning of this clarification, the output of the 1980-1981 crop actually reached 4,333,600 sacks, while the consumption in the province will not exceed 2 million sacks at any rate. This means that there accordingly remains a surplus of some 2 million sacks, which had to remain available. Indeed, there exist some factors which drain the corn production of this province, while the density of the population cannot increase 100 percent just to consume this huge corn crop. The indication of the existence of some factors which contribute to the depletion of the production comes from

the fact that some shortage occurred during the years when disturbances took place in neighboring countries such as Chad, Uganda and Central Africa, which means that a portion of the production was smuggled to those areas. In order to bring a radical solution to these problems, in my opinion, the government of the province should determine, at the start of the harvest season, specific amounts of the production of the mechanized farming projects to be set aside as reserves. It is possible to determine the principles and guidelines according to which the operator of every project will have to deliver that particular amount to the authorities of the province. He will be free to use the rest of his crop as he wishes, as long as we are able to secure reserves for emergencies. It is only in this manner that we will make sure that similar problems do not occur again in the future.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

WORKER DESERTIONS--The phenomenon of workers leaving the companies that hired them and arranged for their travel and residence is not limited to Bahrain but, rather, includes a number of emirates and gulf states. In Ra's al-Khaymah the phenomenon has become widespread as has the level of complaints by contracting companies which claim that the negative ramifications of this phenomenon are not inconsequential. On the contrary, they have led to work and contract delays for these companies, breaches in the implementation agreements of their contracts and, consequently, fines levied against them for such breaches in addition to the burdens and administrative problems arising from the phenomenon of worker desertions. Complaints concerning this problem have revealed that the causes for desertion cannot only be attributed to the workers themselves, but also to their occupational positions, the conditions of their contracts and their low wages, especially after the broker has taken his cut. Also contributing to the problem are companies which encourage certain workers to desert other companies by offering them higher wages. They can afford to do this considering that they do not have to bear the expenses of transportation and residence visas for the deserting worker. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 251, 12 Dec 81 p 65]

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